<u>*Claims*</u>

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("——"), as is applicable:

1. (Currently amended) A method for providing an automated diagnostic audit for a cluster computer system, the cluster computer system comprising a plurality of nodes, each <u>node</u> of the plurality of nodes providing a mission-critical application to a plurality of clients, the method comprising:

receiving information associated with the cluster computer system, the information comprising a plurality of system configuration parameters for each <u>node</u> of the plurality of nodes in the cluster computer system;

defining a plurality of system configuration categories associated with the plurality of system configuration parameters;

defining a threshold benchmark for each <u>system configuration category</u> of the plurality of system configuration categories, each <u>threshold benchmark</u> of <s>the</s> <u>a</u> plurality of threshold benchmarks based on a predefined set of rules;
associating each of a portion of the plurality of system configuration parameters for each <u>node</u> of the plurality of nodes with one of the plurality of system configuration categories; and

generating audit information, the audit information based on a comparison of each of the portion of the plurality of system configuration parameters for each <u>node</u> of the plurality of nodes to the threshold benchmark for the associated system configuration category.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each of at least a portion of the plurality of system configuration parameters are redundantly collected.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing the audit information to a network management entity associated with the cluster computer system.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of system configuration categories comprise a processing parameter, a storage parameter, a network parameter, an operating system parameter, an applications parameter, and a user parameter.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of system configuration categories comprise a processing parameter, a random access memory (RAM) parameter, a virtual memory parameter, a disk storage parameter, a network parameter, an operating system parameter, an applications parameter, and a user parameter.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of threshold benchmarks involve a relative ranking process.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of threshold benchmarks are normalized thresholds based on a distribution of historical data.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the audit information provided to the network management entity is configured to be presented on a graphical user interface.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the receiving the information associated with the cluster computer system and the providing the audit information are via a communications network.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising receiving payment for providing the audit information.

11.   (Currently amended) A system for providing an automated diagnostic audit for a cluster computer system, the cluster computer system comprising a plurality of nodes, each node of the plurality of nodes providing a mission-critical application to a plurality of clients, the system comprising:

means for receiving information associated with the cluster computer system, the information comprising a plurality of system configuration parameters for each node of the plurality of nodes in the cluster computer system;

means for defining a plurality of system configuration categories associated with the plurality of system configuration parameters;

means for defining a threshold benchmark for each system configuration category of the plurality of system configuration categories, each threshold benchmark of the a plurality of threshold benchmarks based on a predefined set of rules;

means for associating each of a portion of the plurality of system configuration parameters for each <u>node</u> of the plurality of nodes with one of the plurality of system configuration categories; and

means for generating audit information, the audit information based on a comparison of each of the portion of the plurality of system configuration parameters for each <u>node</u> of the plurality of nodes to the threshold benchmark for the associated system configuration category.

12.   (Currently amended) The ~~method~~-system of claim 11, wherein each of at least a portion of the plurality of system configuration parameters are redundantly collected.

13.   (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising means for providing the audit information to a network management entity associated with the cluster computer system.

14.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the plurality of system configuration categories comprise a processing parameter, a storage parameter, a network parameter, an operating system parameter, an applications parameter, and a user parameter.

15.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the plurality of system configuration categories comprise a processing parameter, a random access memory (RAM) parameter, a virtual memory parameter, a disk storage parameter, a network

parameter, an operating system parameter, an applications parameter, and a user parameter.

16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the audit information provided to ~~the~~ a network management entity is configured to be presented on a graphical user interface.

17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the receiving the information associated with the cluster computer system and the ~~providing~~ generating the audit information are via a communications network.

18. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the plurality of threshold benchmarks involve a relative ranking process.

19. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the plurality of threshold benchmarks are normalized thresholds based on a distribution of historical data.

20. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising means for receiving payment for providing the audit information.

21. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising a program for providing an automated diagnostic audit for a cluster computer system, the cluster computer system comprising a plurality of nodes, each node of the plurality of nodes providing a mission-critical application to a plurality of clients, the ~~computer-readable medium~~ program comprising:

a first portion of logic configured to receive information associated with the cluster computer system, the information comprising a plurality of system configuration parameters for each <u>node</u> of the plurality of nodes in the cluster computer system;

a second portion of logic configured to define a plurality of system configuration categories associated with the plurality of system configuration parameters;

a third portion of logic configured to define a threshold benchmark for each <u>system configuration category</u> of the plurality of system configuration categories, each <u>threshold benchmark</u> of the <u>a</u> plurality of threshold benchmarks based on a predefined set of rules;

a fourth portion of logic configured to associate each of a portion of the plurality of system configuration parameters for each <u>node</u> of the plurality of nodes with one of the plurality of system configuration categories; and

a fifth portion of logic configured to generate audit information, the audit information based on a comparison of each of the portion of the plurality of system configuration parameters for each <u>node</u> of the plurality of nodes to the threshold benchmark for the associated system configuration category.

22.	(Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein each of at least a portion of the plurality of system configuration parameters are redundantly collected.

23.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, further comprising a sixth portion of logic configured to provide the audit information to a network management entity associated with the cluster computer system.

24.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the plurality of system configuration categories comprise a processing parameter, a storage parameter, a network parameter, an operating system parameter, an applications parameter, and a user parameter.

25.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the plurality of system configuration categories comprise a processing parameter, a random access memory (RAM) parameter, a virtual memory parameter, a disk storage parameter, a network parameter, an operating system parameter, an applications parameter, and a user parameter.

26.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the plurality of threshold benchmarks involve a relative ranking process.

27.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the plurality of threshold benchmarks are normalized thresholds based on a distribution of historical data.

28.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the audit information provided to the network management entity is configured to be presented on a graphical user interface.

29.   (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the receiving the information associated with the cluster computer system and the ~~providing~~ generating the audit information are via a communications network.

30.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, further comprising a seventh portion of logic configured to receive payment for providing the audit information.

31.   (Currently amended) A method for providing an automated diagnostic audit for a cluster computer system, the cluster computer system comprising a plurality of nodes, each <u>node</u> of the plurality of nodes providing a mission-critical application to a plurality of clients, the method comprising:

collecting information associated with the cluster computer system, the information comprising a plurality of system configuration parameters for each <u>node</u> of the plurality of nodes in the cluster computer system;

providing the information associated with the cluster computer system to an application service provider; and

receiving diagnostic audit information generated by the application service provider, the diagnostic audit information corresponding to at least a portion of the information associated with the cluster computer system and determined by:

defining a plurality of system configuration categories associated with the plurality of system configuration parameters;

defining a threshold benchmark for each <u>system configuration category</u> of the plurality of system configuration categories, each <u>threshold benchmark</u> of ~~the~~ <u>a</u> plurality of threshold benchmarks based on a predefined set of rules;

associating each of a portion of the plurality of system configuration parameters for each <u>node</u> of the plurality of nodes with one of the plurality of system configuration categories; and

comparing each of the portion of the plurality of system configuration parameters for each <u>node</u> of the plurality of nodes to the threshold benchmark for the associated system configuration category.

32.   (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein each of at least a portion of the plurality of system configuration parameters are redundantly collected.

33.   (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the plurality of system configuration categories comprise a processing parameter, a storage parameter, a network parameter, an operating system parameter, an applications parameter, and a user parameter.

34.   (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the plurality of system configuration categories comprise a processing parameter, a random access memory (RAM) parameter, a virtual memory parameter, a disk storage parameter, a network parameter, an operating system parameter, an applications parameter, and a user parameter.

35.   (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the plurality of threshold benchmarks involve a relative ranking process.

36.   (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the plurality of threshold benchmarks are normalized thresholds based on a distribution of historical data.

37.   (Original) The method of claim 31, further comprising presenting the audit information on a graphical user interface.

38.   (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the providing the information associated with the cluster computer system to an application service provider is via electronic mail.

39.   (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the providing the information associated with the cluster computer system to an application service provider is via the Internet.

40.   (Original) The method of claim 31, further comprising paying for the diagnostic audit information.

41.   (Currently amended) A system for providing an automated diagnostic audit for a cluster computer system, the cluster computer system comprising a plurality of nodes, each node of the plurality of nodes providing a mission-critical application to a plurality of clients, the system comprising:

means for collecting information associated with the cluster computer system, the information comprising a plurality of system configuration parameters for each node of the plurality of nodes in the cluster computer system;

means for providing the information associated with the cluster computer system to an application service provider; and

means for receiving diagnostic audit information generated by the application service provider, the diagnostic audit information corresponding to at least a portion of the information associated with the cluster computer system and determined by:

defining a plurality of system configuration categories associated with the plurality of system configuration parameters;

defining a threshold benchmark for each <u>system configuration category</u> of the plurality of system configuration categories, each <u>threshold benchmark</u> of ~~the~~ <u>a</u> plurality of threshold benchmarks based on a predefined set of rules;

associating each of a portion of the plurality of system configuration parameters for each <u>node</u> of the plurality of nodes with one of the plurality of system configuration categories; and

comparing each of the portion of the plurality of system configuration parameters for each <u>node</u> of the plurality of nodes to the threshold benchmark for the associated system configuration category.

42.   (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein each of at least a portion of the plurality of system configuration parameters are redundantly collected.

43.   (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the plurality of system configuration categories comprise a processing parameter, a storage parameter, a network parameter, an operating system parameter, an applications parameter, and a user parameter.

44.   (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the plurality of system configuration categories comprise a processing parameter, a random access memory (RAM) parameter, a virtual memory parameter, a disk storage parameter, a network parameter, an operating system parameter, an applications parameter, and a user parameter.

45.   (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the plurality of threshold benchmarks involve a relative ranking process.

46.   (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the plurality of threshold benchmarks are normalized thresholds based on a distribution of historical data.

47.   (Original) The system of claim 41, further comprising means for presenting the audit information on a graphical user interface.

48.   (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the information associated with the cluster computer system is provided to the application service provider via electronic mail.

49. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the information associated with the cluster computer system is provided to the application service provider via the Internet.

50. (Original) The system of claim 41, further comprising paying for the diagnostic audit information.

51. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising a program for providing an automated diagnostic audit for a cluster computer system, the cluster computer system comprising a plurality of nodes, each of the plurality of nodes providing a mission-critical application to a plurality of clients, the computer-readable medium program comprising:

a first portion of logic configured to collect information associated with the cluster computer system, the information comprising a plurality of system configuration parameters for each node of the plurality of nodes in the cluster computer system;

a second portion of logic configured to provide the information associated with the cluster computer system to an application service provider; and

a third portion of logic configured to receive diagnostic audit information generated by the application service provider, the diagnostic audit information corresponding to at least a portion of the information associated with the cluster computer system and determined by:

defining a plurality of system configuration categories associated with the plurality of system configuration parameters;

defining a threshold benchmark for each <u>system configuration category</u> of the plurality of system configuration categories, each <u>threshold benchmark</u> of ~~the~~ <u>a</u> plurality of threshold benchmarks based on a predefined set of rules;

associating each of a portion of the plurality of system configuration parameters for each <u>node</u> of the plurality of nodes with one of the plurality of system configuration categories; and

comparing each of the portion of the plurality of system configuration parameters for each <u>node</u> of the plurality of nodes to the threshold benchmark for the associated system configuration category.

52. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 51, wherein each of at least a portion of the plurality of system configuration parameters are redundantly collected.

~~52~~<u>53</u>. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 51, wherein the plurality of system configuration categories comprise a processing parameter, a storage parameter, a network parameter, an operating system parameter, an applications parameter, and a user parameter.

~~53~~<u>54</u>. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 51, wherein the plurality of system configuration categories comprise a processing parameter, a random access memory (RAM) parameter, a virtual memory parameter, a disk storage parameter, a network parameter, an operating system parameter, an applications parameter, and a user parameter.

5455. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 51, wherein the plurality of threshold benchmarks involve a relative ranking process.

5556. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 51, wherein the plurality of threshold benchmarks are normalized thresholds based on a distribution of historical data.

5657. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 51, further comprising a fourth portion of logic configured to present the audit information on a graphical user interface.

5758. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 51, wherein the information associated with the cluster computer system is provided to the application service provider via electronic mail.

5859. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 51, wherein the information associated with the cluster computer system is provided to the application service provider via the Internet.

5960. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 51, further comprising a fifth portion of logic configured to pay for the diagnostic audit information.